PROPOSALS

For PRINTING

The Lives and Characters

OF

The moſt Eminent Writers

OF THE

SCOTS NATION, &c.

BY

George Mackenzie *M. D. Fellow of the Royal College of Phyſicians in* Edinburgh.

ALL the Polite Nations of the World, have had their *Biographers*, who Tranſmitted to Poſterity, the *Lives* and *Characters* of ſuch of their Illuſtrious Predeceſſors, as have been Eminent, either for Piety, Valour, or Learning: And it has been thought no ſmall Piece of Service done to the Republick of Learning, To have Collected, into one Volume, The *Names* and *Titles* of their *Works*.

OUR Nation has produc'd no *Biographer*, worth the mentioning, excepting *Dempſter* and *Camerarius*; and both theſe have Fraughted their Books with ſuch Monſtrous Fables, and Falſe Citations, that they have obtain'd nothing by their Labours, but the deſerv'd Character of *Fabulous Writers*.. So that the Right Reverend and Learned Dr. *Nicolſon*, Biſhop of *Carliſle*, had Reaſon to ſay, in his Preface to the *Scots Hiſt: Librar: That to one, who Conſiders how many Great Men of Letters, in all Faculties, the Kingdom of* Scotland *has produc'd; and what a Figure, the Gentlemen of That Nation have frequently made, in the Univerſities of* Italy, France, *and* Germany: *It muſt appear very ſtrange and unaccountable, that ſo few of Thoſe, have been the Subjects of particular Mens Pens; and that ſuch Mighty Hero's in Learning, to whom the Old* Romans *and* Athenians *would have erected Altars, ſhould want even the cheap Acknowledgment of a Paper-Monument.*

THESE, and many other Reaſons, which ſhall be mention'd in the *Preface* to this Work, did induce the *Author* to beſtow ſome Part of his Studies

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theſe ſeveral Years paſt, in Making Collections of all the Remarkable *Inſtances* of this kind, that he could obtain, thro' his Painful Search in the *Bodleian* Library at *Oxford*; and in all ſuch other Libraries, Abroad and at Home, as he had occaſion to Viſit.

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